

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00741 140727Z

21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /038 W

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R 131615Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO USDAO ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY LOME

DIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6166

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, DM

SUBJECT: ATTACHE TRAVEL

1. AS YOU AWARE, NEW ASSISTANT TO CHIEF OF STAFF, MAJOR RODRIGUEZ, IS VERY CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE IN COTONOU. VISIT TO HIM BY AMERICAN MILITARY ATTACHE AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION BY MANY ELEMENTS IN DAHOMEAN POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND ARMY. BELIEVE, THEREFORE, I MUST VETO CALL ON RODRIGUEZ FOR TIME BEING.

2. AS TO OTHER "NORMAL APPOINTMENTS," NOT SURE WHAT THESE MIGHT BE. DAHOMEAN NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS VISITS BY FOREIGN ATTACHES TO UNITS OR SUBORDINATE STAFF OFFICERS IS WELL KNOWN. CHIEFS OF STAFF OF VARIOUS MILITARY COMPONENTS ARE ALSO LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT. THUS, YOUR VISITING THEM WITHOUT REASON THEY WOULD CONSIDER WORTHWHILE, I.E. OFFER OF ASSISTANCE, NOT LIKELY BE USEFUL. FINALLY, WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING PRESIDENT KEREKOU, WITHOUT DAMAGING OUR RELATIONS, TO WITHDRAW HIS REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE MADE DURING ARMA VISIT IN 1973. WOULD NOT WISH AROUSE AGAIN THIS SLEEPING DOG.

4. WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME ARMA VISIT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL. MOREOVER, AM SURE FRENCH MILITARY

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ATTACHE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE VISIT FROM HIS AMERICAN

COLLEAGUE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER YOU WISH TO COME UNDER THESE
CONDITIONS SO WE CAN FOREWARN FRENCH MILATT.
MCNAMARA

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NNN

Message Attributes

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